

Immigration order playing well to Trump's fans around nation

By JAY REEVES
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — President Donald Trump's order temporarily banning refugees and immigrants from seven mostly Muslim countries is playing well in Trump Country, those places that propelled him to the White House.

The New York businessman and reality TV star promised to put America first during the campaign, his supporters say, and he's doing it. That includes securing the nation's borders and doing everything possible to prevent terrorists from entering the U.S.

In their view, Trump is being Trump. They add that Democrats and liberal snowflakes and soft-hearted do-gooders just need to calm down.

"He's going to do what he says and says what he does," said Barbara Van Syckel, 66, of Sterling Heights, Michigan. "That's a little frightening for some people."

Thousands have demonstrated at U.S. airports since Trump issued an order Friday blocking people from seven countries in the Middle East and Africa from entering the U.S. and suspending refugee immigration for four months. The protests included a gathering of several hundred people at the Birmingham, Alabama, airport, the largest in a Southern state Trump carried with ease.

Washington's state attorney general filed a lawsuit over the order, and a federal judge in New York issued an emergency order temporarily banning deportations of people from the seven nations. Some Republican lawmakers have questioned the order, with Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina saying they fear it will become "a self-inflicted wound in the fight against terrorism."



AP Photo/Mike Householder

Barbara Van Syckel is interviewed in Sterling Heights, Mich., Monday. Many Trump voters across the U.S. say they are pleased with his executive order temporarily banning refugees and immigrants from seven mostly Muslim countries. Van Syckel said that President Donald Trump is "going to do what he says and says what he does." The 66-year-old says "that's a little frightening for some people."

Trump Country

Yet none of that criticism matters much in Trump Country, those states and counties where Trump claimed the votes to win the Electoral College despite losing the popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Retired social service worker Judith Wilkenloh says the order shows Trump "means what he says."

"He's just unafraid. He's just going ahead like a locomotive, and I like him more and more every time he does something," said Wilkenloh, 72, of Fredrick, Maryland.

Trump supporters said they're satisfied with the immigration order and the ideas behind it, from improving national security to watching out for Americans first. Some Trump backers said they might do things a little differently than the president, but their overall reaction is positive.

"We're not the world's Social Security office. We're not here to take care of people,"

said Jim Buterbaugh, the head of custodial work and maintenance at a public school in the western Montana town of White Hall. "I understand that people need help, but there are other ways besides bringing them here."

Buterbaugh, who has actively fought the re-settlement of Syrians in Montana, was frustrated that Trump's moratorium did not include countries such as Saudi Arabia, where most of the Sept. 11 hijackers were from. The executive order also did not include the creation of safe zones for refugees, which he favors.

Mike Honaker has some misgivings, too. A Trump supporter in a struggling West Virginia coal town, he didn't think "blitzing everybody" with an order that spread chaos around the world was the right way to go.

But Honaker worries about terrorism and does not have a problem with Trump's plan to screen refugees more thor-



AP Photo/John Minchillo

Middletown, Ohio, attorney Terri King speaks during a forum at the Miami University learning center in West Chester, Ohio, in February. President Donald Trump's supporters could not be much happier with his Friday executive order temporarily banning refugees and immigrants from seven mostly Muslim countries. King said Trump's order has widespread support in her Rust Belt city of Middletown.

oughly. Overall, Honaker likes 85 percent of what the president has done so far.

"I think he's shaking it up, the whole of Washington, D.C., and half the country, like he said he would," he said.

Attorney Terri King, 56, said Trump's order has widespread support in her Rust Belt city of Middletown, Ohio.

The only people who don't support it are "those who are paid to protest on the left ... and some Democrats," said King, an also-ran in a GOP congressional race last year.

Venita Ferguson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, said national security was a priority for her during the election, and Trump has delivered on what he promised.

"I couldn't be more pleased with what he's done," the 59-year-old Ferguson said. "We're in that kind of world where to ignore the possibility that even one person out of 10,000 has ill intentions is foolish."

No free lunch: Donors erase students' debts

By MARY ESCH
Associated Press

Ashley C. Ford felt driven to act by a sad fact of life in the nation's school cafeterias: Kids with unpaid lunch accounts are often embarrassed with a substitute meal of a cold cheese sandwich and a carton of milk.

Ford, a New York City writer, appealed to her 66,000 Twitter followers with a solution. "A cool thing you can do today is try to find out which of your local schools have kids with overdue lunch accounts and pay them off."

In the nearly two months since, people around the country have been inspired to donate thousands of dollars to erase debts owed by parents that can follow kids throughout their school careers.

In Minnesota, an online fundraising effort has paid almost \$100,000 in lunch debt in Minneapolis schools and \$28,000 in St. Paul's. Donors, mostly anonymous, erased \$6,000 in debts in Topeka, Kansas, \$2,000 in Bellevue, Washington, \$1,200 in Wilmington, Delaware, and \$900 in Herminie, Pennsylvania.

"It really hit home for me," said Kristina Arwood, of Evansville, Indiana, who launched a campaign that raised \$20,000 to pay lunch debts in her region. "I grew up on free and reduced-price lunches, but even that 40 cents was hard to get together with four kids. There were times I wouldn't eat because I didn't have money and didn't want to be labeled as the poor kid."

Jill Draper, a yarn maker

in the Hudson Valley town of Kingston, New York, said she was inspired by Ford's tweet to collect money toward the \$6,000 in debts owed by 600 students in her city's schools.

"It seemed like a really easy way to make a positive difference locally," said Draper, who has no children. "It's amazing how one tweet became this crazy movement."

Draper said the effort drew some criticism from people who said some of the money is owed by parents who can afford the \$2.50 for lunch but let their accounts run into the red. "But the response has been mostly positive, with really sweet notes from people who donate," she said.

Free and reduced

Children from the poorest families get free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch. But some struggle to pay even reduced prices, and some families who would qualify for free or reduced prices fail to fill out the necessary paperwork. Some of the IOUs come from kids who simply forget their lunch money or parents who can afford to pay but neglect to keep prepaid accounts up to date.

Most school districts allow children to run a tab for a certain number of meals if they come up short. Others give them an alternate meal of a cheese or peanut butter sandwich and fruit. If parents ignore school notices about their child's overdrawn lunch account, the debt may be sent to a collection agency. Ultimately, taxpayers may have to cover it.

Cleanup: City 'can't do it all'

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with poorly maintained land and buildings don't put health, safety and the environment at risk.

"I'm spending taxpayer money to pay for things people should be taking care of themselves," he said. "It really bothers me."

With squatters taking shelter in squalid shacks and addicts holing up in abandoned abodes, Phillips has his work cut out. Discarded syringes and litter add to the hazards of problem properties, for those who stay in them and people passing by.

"I don't want to see anyone go into any building and get killed or injured," he said.

Phillips said the properties with the most pressing health and safety risks are the city's top priorities. He sends warning letters and tries to work with owners before ticketing them.

If the city has to take legal action, the costs add up quickly, he said. That's why he does what he can to prod property owners to do the work on their own.

"We need to have a good-lookin' community," Phillips said. "People taking pride in homes and businesses."



Long Beach Mayor Jerry Phillips has made tackling code violations a priority.

EO Media Group
File Photo

Some successes

City Administrator David Glasson said Phillips has already been successful in improving a few spots, including an old gas station that marred the corner of Sid Snyder and Pacific avenues for years.

The mayor saved the city money in legal fees and demolition costs by arranging for the former Grey Parrot Brewing Co. property to be sold to the owners of Active Enterprises, a neighboring propane and RV supply business.

"It sure cleaned up the city and it looks better so far," Glasson said.

Phillips also worked with the nonprofit His Supper Table on the sale of a property along

Pacific Avenue near Ninth Street North. The deal helped the charity save the city legal fees and the cost of tearing down an abandoned A-frame, Glasson said.

Now, Phillips is rewriting the rules for Long Beach property owners with city staff.

"Some of our ordinances don't have teeth in them to help us," he said.

They're considering changes to standards for yards and limits on vehicles parked outside.

The mayor hopes stronger guidelines and fewer seedy sites will help attract new businesses, residents and tourists to town.

"We all need to do it together," Phillips said. "We, the city, can't do it all."

Director: Applications due by Feb. 28

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during his nearly four years in Cannon Beach.

"The other thing, too, that I'm really proud with Dan is the street-overlay program, where he's tried to routinely maintain our streets, as well as to look to maintain the unpaved streets," Kucera said.

The city's RV Resort witnessed a "huge upgrade" under Grassick's supervision, bringing in electrical, water and sewer to the area east of U.S. Highway 101, Kucera said. "That property has gone seamlessly. It really positions us in the future for the kind of experience campers are looking for."

Grassick said, "Every week seems to bring a new topic for discussion and potential problem solving. The community

involvement has been interesting and emphasizes the importance of both written and verbal communication to a very diverse audience with wide ranging perspectives on all issues."

The qualifications

The position is advertised at a salary range of \$73,000 to \$88,000.

"I'm looking for someone who has really strong personnel experience," Kucera said. "We have a wide array of workers in public works, from very experienced to brand new."

Candidates experienced in budgeting, managing bid processes, project management and the performance of contractors are sought.

"While this is not a typical engineering project design

and construction position, the opportunities for working on standard fare such as water lines, sewer lines, streets and treatment plant operations are there, as well as all the subtle community issues that come with being a very popular tourist destination community," Grassick said. "It's a continuous education and learning environment that ensures you stay energized and engaged every day."

All applications and resumes must be received at Cannon Beach City Hall by Feb. 28.

"Dan really brought a lot to the table," Kucera said. "One person doesn't make an organization, but Dan was a very important part of Cannon Beach. He's a great guy to work with. I felt like he's a friend. It's going to be hard to replace him."



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